From: Len Bloch
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/14/01 10:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

    I am writing to offer feedback on the proposed Microsoft settlement. There are many aspects of the settlement which I feel could be improved, but I will focus on the requirement that Microsoft disclose some of their code to other companies.

    I am fully in favor of disclosure, but I feel that the disclosures should be made to the public at large, and the all members of the public should then have the right to modify and use the code. Microsoft's most significant competition comes from the free software movement, and it is crucial that the disclosures become available to anybody who wants to compete with Microsoft, even if they are not a "company".

    As for the proposal that Microsoft be required to port their office applications to at least three other operating systems. It should be specified which operating systems, with the understanding that it should be widely used systems, like Linux and Open BSD.

    Remember, Microsoft has been found guilty of criminal activities, and the remedies need strengthen Microsoft's main competition or they will not work as remedies. Microsoft's biggest competition comes from free software. By making more and better free software available, everybody will benefit.

Aloha,

Len Bloch